

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, UR, US

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVES
FINAL PLANS FOR SOVIET EMBASSY COMPLEX

1. NCPC ON JULY 31 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED SOVIET PLANS
FOR NE' EMBASSY COMPLEX. COMMISSION APPROVED MODIFICA-
TION TO NATIONAL CAPITAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RECLASSI-
FYING MT. ALTO SITE FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENCE TO
FOREIGN MISSION USE.

2. COMMISSION MEMBER RAISED QUESTION OF ANTENNAS
TO BE BUILT AT EMBASSY SITE STATING THAT SHE WANTED
TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT APPROVAL FOR ANTENNA WOULD NOT
BE PART OF COMMISSION ACTION. SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS
BY NEIGHBORS ALSO TOUCHED ON ANTENNAS AS AIRCRAFT
HAZARD.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION DIRECTED COMMENTS TO POTENTIAL AIR POLLU-
TION FROM SOVIET EMBASSY HEATING PLANT. PRESENTATION
INCLUDED REPORT BY AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST WHO
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CLAIMED THAT SERIOUS FAULTS EXIST IN POLLUTION SECTION

OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. THIS GROUP LEFT MEETING WITH ASSURANCE THAT SOVIET EMPASSY SPECIALIST

WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE ON AIR POLLUTION QUESTION AND SEEK MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

4. MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS CITIZEN ASSOCIATION SUPPORTED SOVIET PLANS WHICH THEY FELT PRESENTED FEWER PROBLEMS THAN ANY OTHER POSSIBLE USE OF MT. ALTO SITE. THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAS PURCHASED A SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE IN THE AREA AND SURROUNDED IT WITH A HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE AND MOVED SEVERAL FAMILIES INTO THIS DWELLING, CONTRARY TO ZONING REGULATIONS. QUESTIONED AFTER THE MEETING, SOVIET PROJECT SUPERVISOR ILLARIONOV SAID THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAS RENTED HOUSE AND OWNER AGREED TO FENCE AND MULTIPLE FAMILY OCCUPANCY.

5. REPRESENTATIVE OF RESIDENTS OF WISCONSIN HOUSE, ADJACENT TO SITE, REPEATED PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS THAT SOVIET APARTMENTS CLOSE TO THEIR BUILDING WOULD CONSTITUTE SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE AREA AND ENTIRE PROJECT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION. SHE SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT MOSCOW EMBASSY SITE IS "DOWN BY A RIVER BANK" AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT US TAXPAYERS WERE NOT GETTING A FAIR EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET SITE AND BUILDING. SHE SAID SHE WAS NOT SATISFIED ABOUT THE ANTENNA QUESTION AND IS CONCERNED THAT NO GOVERNMENT AGENCY WILL EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE ANTENNAS AND OTHER ADDITIONS SOVIETS MIGHT MAKE TO BUILDINGS. ATTORNEY REPRESENTING OWNERS OF WISCONSIN HOUSE STATED INTEREST IN HAVING ENTIRE SOVIET APARTMENT COMPLEX LOWERED BY ABOUT 20 FEET.

6. GENERAL RESPONSE FROM COMMISSION TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS WAS THAT THE DC AUTHORITIES WILL REVIEW THE SOVIET PLANS ON A CONTINUING BASIS TO ASSURE THEY CONFORM TO BUILDING AND SAFETY CODES AND THAT COMMISSION FEELS THAT ADDITIONAL PUBLIC CONCERNS OUTSIDE OF COMMISSION'S COMPETENCE WILL BE HANDLED BY DEPARTMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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7. AFTER RECEIPT OF FORMAL NOTICE OF APPROVAL FROM COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT PLANS TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS WITH SOVEMB HERE ALONG LINES OF STATE 178303. INGERSOLL

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